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**Press Guidance on Amnesty International report on  
AFGHANISTAN: Detainees transferred to Torture: ISAF complicity?**

- ISAF developed its detainee transfer policy, in cooperation with the ICRC, with emphasis on the importance of humane treatment.
- Humane treatment safeguards include bilateral arrangements between ISAF partners and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, rule of law assistance, and third-party monitoring of transferred detainees.
- We take allegations of mistreatment seriously. However, we join our ISAF partners in the view that Amnesty's call for a moratorium on detainee transfers to the Government of Afghanistan is neither warranted nor appropriate.
- We continue to work with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to improve its prison system and to develop the rule of law.
- We refer you to the NATO ISAF spokesperson for further comment.

**If asked:** Do you agree with Amnesty's contention that bilateral MOUs are inadequate for addressing humane treatment concerns?

- Like our ISAF partners, the USG considers that bilateral MOUs and similar arrangements are an important and appropriate tool for addressing humane treatment issues.

**If asked:** Are you aware of any cases of abuse or mistreatment of detainees transferred by the United States to the Government of Afghanistan?

- I believe that the ISAF spokesperson has addressed the question with regard to ISAF transfers. Without getting into specifics, I can assure you that humane treatment is a priority for us.

**Background:** International Security Assistance Force Operations Plan requires that all detainees be turned over to the Afghan authorities within 96 hours of capture. United States forces operating under ISAF command abide by this rule. Earlier this week Amnesty International issued a report alleging that transferred detainees had been abused or disappeared. It contains specific allegations of torture with respect to three Canadian detainees. It calls for a moratorium on any further detainee transfers to the Afghans and argues that bilateral assurances on humane treatment are not a meaningful safeguard against abuse. ISAF partners reviewed the recommendations in draft form and decided that a moratorium was neither warranted nor realistic.

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